

DAKOTA OF THE SKYSCRAPER

THE FIRE UNDERWRITERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

THE FIRE UNDERWRITERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, in its report to the Board of Fire Underwriters, has made a general statement of the situation of the industry in this city.

The committee on the limitation of the height and height of buildings appointed by the Board of Fire Underwriters, has made a report to the Board of Fire Underwriters.

With our present unlimited height of buildings in the financial center, where the office are being converted into narrow rooms by the walls of thirty and forty stories buildings, we are creating a disaster that would outlast that of any other great fire in the country.

Fire experience has taught that a high building of great area needs the hottest fire. It is not only not beyond the range of possibility, but the fire underwriters fear that there is a very strong probability of a re-starting in the next skyscraper and leaving across streets from the windows on the top floors to other buildings.

The president of the underwriters said that in the event of such a conflagration, even though it were confined to the dozen blocks where the skyscrapers are thickest, the underwriting companies would be so badly punished that 50 or 75 cents on the dollar would be all they could pay.

Mr. Babbs urged upon the commission the necessity of recommending legislation limiting the height and area of buildings all over the city. There were many stores and buildings housing manufacturing interests along Broadway and on the side streets which because of their great area and their heavy stocks of inflammable goods made the fire underwriters exceedingly nervous even under present conditions.

Mr. Babbs' recommendations were these: For non-fireproof buildings to be used for commercial and manufacturing purposes, a height of 55 feet and an area of 5,000 square feet, to be increased a little when the building extended through the block or was situated on a corner; in fireproof buildings provided with automatic sprinklers and designed for office use only the area could be extended to between 20,000 and 25,000 square feet and a height of 125 feet could be permitted.

All of those who appeared before the commission yesterday afternoon were agreed that some sort of regulation in the height and area of buildings should be enforced, but they were unanimous in saying that such regulations would be so complicated by legal and economic objections as to become a matter of serious moment. Yet it could be solved better today than twenty years from now.

Calvin Tomkins, chairman of the committee on city plans of the Municipal Art Society, told the commission that, aside from the question of fire dangers, the increased building of skyscrapers raised the serious problem of light and air distribution. Unless some statute provision is made for cross easements in the matter of these two elements, when solid blocks of skyscrapers stand where three or four are now erected the lower floors will be cellars and only those on the upper floors will have light and air.

Mr. Tomkins said also that he had been informed by engineers that in case of a sudden shock or other unforeseen incident calculated to terrify the tenants of the lofty buildings the narrow streets of the financial district would not be large enough to accommodate the pack that would swarm from the many storied homes.

As the law stands in America at present no action can be brought for the deprivation of light and air, said the delegate from the Municipal Art Society, although in Boston at the present time an attempt is being made to appeal to the common law for relief in just this contingency. A statute by the legislature would be the only way the Aldermen could be empowered to enforce a possible ruling on this question.

LAURA CARTER IS ACQUITTED

LINCOLN COUNTY, N. H., Sept. 6.—(Special.)

Just after 10 o'clock yesterday the jury in the case of Laura M. Carter, charged with the murder of her husband, returned a verdict of acquittal.

The case was heard in the court of the Lincoln County Superior Court, Judge J. W. Carter presiding.

The jury, composed of twelve men, deliberated for several hours before reaching their verdict.

The case had attracted considerable public interest since its inception.

The jury's decision was met with surprise by many onlookers.

The case was the result of a long and bitter struggle.

The jury's verdict was a final blow to the prosecution.

The case had been a long and arduous one.

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